

~~SECRET~~

NMCC

THE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

28 March 1972  
2230 EST

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Subject: Gunship downed by Enemy Fire in Laos

282005Z

At 281508 EST March, a USAF AC-130A gunship assigned to the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing Ubon, RTAFB, Thailand was downed by a SAM or a rocket 10 miles southwest of Tchepone (see map on reverse side). The gunship and three F-4 escort aircraft were on an armed reconnaissance mission when they were fired upon by three SAMs or rockets. The F-4's flight crew reported the gunship, which was orbiting at 8,500 feet, exploded following a direct hit in the mid-section. No SAM radar signals were detected by the F-4 aircraft.

There were 14 crewmembers on the AC-130. Initial reports indicated that one beeper radio signal had been received, however, subsequent reports state no chutes were observed and no voice or beeper radio contact has been established. Search and rescue operations are in progress.

*Colin C. Hamilton, Jr.*  
COLIN C. HAMILTON, JR.  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Deputy Director for  
Operations, NMCC

1 Attachment  
Messages (over)

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